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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,634	11/29/2001	Benjamin V. Smith	20009.0025US01(01123)	1657
45695 7590 09/11/2007 WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH P. O. BOX 71355 MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355			EXAMINER LE, KAREN L	
			ART UNIT 2614	PAPER NUMBER
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/995,634

Applicant(s)

SMITH, BENJAMIN V.

Examiner

Karen L. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 31-33 and 36-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31-33 and 36-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. Applicant's amendment filed on June 1, 2007 has been entered. Claims 31-33, 36, 39, 41 and 42 have been amended. Claims 31-33 and 36-42 are pending in this application, with claims 31, 33, 36, 39, 41 and 42 being independent.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 31-33 and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masek (U. S. 5,272,749) in view of Riskin (U.S. 4,757,267), Greenberg et al. (US 2001/0038624).

Regarding claims 31, 33 and 36, Masek teaches a method for providing subscription code services in a geographical area (col. 3, lines 44-47), the method comprising:

Allocating a plurality of subscription codes (Col. 2, lines 32-40, ex. 511-CAR CITY, Col. 12, lines 3-9, ex. AEX#) for the services;

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provisioning a trigger at each of at least one switch within the geographical area, wherein the trigger is adapted to detect calls initiated by one or more callers using one of the subscription codes (Col. 3, lines 65-68 and col. 4, lines 1-4); send an Info-Analyze message to query the controller for call routing instructions when a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code is detected at a switch (Col. 4, lines 8-9); wherein the telephone number is substantially permanently assigned to the subscription code (Col. 15, lines 22-25), and terminating the call using the telephone number (col. 3, lines 35-55). Presenting to the caller a list of subscribers associated with the subscription code, receiving one telephone number corresponding to a subscriber that has been chosen by the caller from the list (Col. 19, lines 64 – Col. 20, lines 70).

Masek does not teaches determining an originating region from which the call was initiated; Storing the subscription codes in a look up table, stored within a controller, retrieving a telephone number from the look up table, the look up table containing associations of the subscription code to multiple telephone numbers each telephone number being associated with a different subscriber, corresponding to different originating regions based at least in part on the subscription code and the time of day when the call was initiated such that the telephone number retrieved is different at the time of day the call was initiated than it is for a call initiated at a second time of day, and the originating region determined for the call. However, Riskin teaches determining an originating region from which the call was initiated; retrieving a telephone number from a table containing associations of the subscription code to

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multiple telephone numbers corresponding to different originating regions based at least in part on the subscription code and the originating region determined for the call (Abstract, lines 1-10). Riskin teaches a comparison is performed between the telephone number of the potential customer and the data in the file to find 1-3 selected dealers nearby to the potential customer. The system then automatically dials the telephone number of the closest dealer thereby routing the potential customer directly to a nearby dealer who can provide the products to that customer. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Riskin's feature to Masek's system in order to store and retrieve a telephone number from a table containing associations of the subscription code to multiple telephone numbers ( Riskin provides up to 3 selected dealer nearby to the potential customer) corresponding to different originating regions based at least in part on the subscription code. Identifying the originating region of the caller and provide telephone numbers of local subscribers are old and popular in telecommunication field. Riskin is the second reference and it does not have to be bodily incorporate in the primary reference.

Masek does not teach the telephone number retrieved is different at the time of day than it is at a second time of day. However, Greenberg teaches the telephone number retrieved is different at the time of day than it is at a second time of day (see paragraph 0066, page 8). Greenberg teaches a consumer calls at 7PM and the merchant's east coast call center is closed but the west coast is still open, a telephone number for the west coast call center will be selected instead of a telephone number for

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the east coast call center. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Greenberg's feature into Masek feature to retrieve different telephone at different time of day. Retrieve different telephone number at different time of day is very popular in telecommunication system.

Masek teaches the subscription code is associated with two or more different subscribers (Col. 19, lines 64-68 and Col. 20, lines 1-2). Masek does not teach base on the time of day such that a subscriber associated with the telephone number retrieved at the second time of day is different from the subscriber associated with the telephone number retrieved at the time of day when the call was initiated. However, Greenberg teaches connecting customer to different call centers base on time of day.

Connecting different called centers or different subscribers are just database matter.

The phone numbers of call centers can be substituted by phone numbers of subscribers in a database that base on time of day. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Greenberg's feature to Masek's system in order to have the subscription code associated with two or more different subscribers base on the time of day. Also, there are many databases in communication system contain many carriers (many subscribers). The computer is programmed to select a carrier providing the best (lowest) rate for the particular time of placement for the dialed call. The processor then appends the access code of the selected carrier to the dialed telephone number, and the number is fed into the telephone communication line for placement with the selected carrier.

Regarding claim 32, Masek further teaches wherein the originating region is determined based on one or more of an NPA-NXX designation, an originating point code, and a zip code associated with the caller (Col. 2, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 37-38, Masek does not teach the presenting step involves a prerecorded announcement. The presenting and receiving steps are performed by one or both of a service node and the switch. However, Riskin teaches presenting step involves a prerecorded announcement. The presenting and receiving steps are performed by one or both of a service node and the switch (Col. 15, lines 7-19). Riskin teaches a feature providing text to speech announcements. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Masek's system with Riskin's feature to present step involves a prerecorded announcement. It is old and well known in telecommunication system.

4. Claims 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masek (U. S. 5,272,749) in view of Riskin (U.S. 4,757,267), and further in view of Crocket (U.S. 5,590,188).

Regarding claims 39, 41 and 42, Masek teaches a method for providing subscription code services in a geographical area (col. 3, lines 44-47), the method comprising:

Allocating a plurality of subscription codes (Col. 2, lines 32-40, ex. 511-CAR CITY, Col. 12, lines 3-9, ex. AEX#) for the services; provisioning a trigger at each of at least one switch within the geographical area, wherein the trigger is adapted to detect calls initiated by one or more callers using one of the subscription codes (Col. 3, lines 65-68 and col. 4, lines 1-4); querying a controller for call routing instructions when a call initiated by a caller using a subscription code is detected at a switch (Col. 4, lines 8-9); wherein the telephone number is substantially permanently assigned to the subscription code (Col. 15, lines 22-25), and terminating the call using the retrieved the telephone number (col. 3, lines 35-55. Presenting to the caller a list of subscribers associated with the subscription code, receiving one telephone number corresponding to a subscriber that has been chosen by the caller from the list (Col. 19, lines 64 – Col. 20, lines 70).

Masek does not teach determining an originating region from which the call was initiated; storing the subscription codes in a look up table, retrieving a telephone number from a look up table containing associations of the subscription code to multiple telephone numbers corresponding to different originating regions based at least in part on the subscription code, the time of day when the call was initiated such that the telephone number retrieved is different at the time of day than it is at a second time of day, and the originating region determined for the call. However, Riskin teaches determining an originating region from which the call was initiated; retrieving a telephone number from a table containing associations of the subscription code to multiple telephone numbers corresponding to different originating regions based at least in part on the subscription code and the originating region determined for the call



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(Abstract, lines 1-10). Riskin teaches a comparison is performed between the telephone number of the potential customer and the data in the file to find 1-3 selected dealers nearby to the potential customer. The system then automatically dials the telephone number of the closest dealer thereby routing the potential customer directly to a nearby dealer who can provide the products to that customer. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Riskin's feature to Masek's system in order to store and retrieve a telephone number from a table containing associations of the subscription code to multiple telephone numbers ( Riskin provides up to 3 selected dealer nearby to the potential customer) corresponding to different originating regions based at least in part on the subscription code. Identifying the originating region of the caller and provide telephone numbers of local subscribers are old and popular in telecommunication field. Riskin is the second reference and it does not have to be bodily incorporate in the primary reference.

Masek does not teach selecting for the first caller one of the multiple telephone number associated with one of the plurality of subscribers associated with the subscription code in a predetermined round robin order such that one of the plurality of subscribers has a greater chance of being contacted by the caller using the subscription code than the remaining plurality of subscribers, and terminating the call using the selected telephone number. However Crockett teaches the predetermined round robin order such that one of the plurality of subscribers has a greater chance of being contacted by the caller using the subscription code than the remaining plurality of

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subscribers, and terminating the call using the selected telephone number (Col. 4, lines 45-47, Col. 3, lines 34-38 and Col. 5, lines 45-65). Crockett teaches rules to define constraints and/or preferences that control the actions of the decision procedure of the call routing processor. Crockett also teaches initial target routing percentages for each of the destinations. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Crockett's feature into Masek's system in order to provide predetermined round robin order using the subscription code. The predetermined round robin order is similar to a rules-based call routing method that distributes telephone calls among multiple call center destinations in a telephone network. The rules-based call routing method has been implemented throughout the telephone network.

Regarding claim 40, Masek further teaches wherein the originating region is determined based on one or more of an NPA-NXX designation, an originating point code, and a zip code associated with the caller (Col. 2, lines 1-6).

### **Response to Arguments**

Applicant's arguments filed June 01, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As to Applicant's Remarks, applicant mainly argues that Masek does not describe the use of a look up table containing associations of the subscription code to multiple telephone numbers. Examiner respectfully disagrees since as shown at

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column 4, lines 10-19, Masek describes the use of a look up table for each digit input in the order that they were input, one at a time. In addition, Riskin's database is more complicate than Masek's table. Riskin uses a mathematical algorithm to find the closest location to the central office the location of which is looked up via a vertical-horizontal file containing latitude and longitude information of the central office. A table is just a data grid use to store similar information. It is made up of columns that represent entity attributes or pieces of data, and rows, which represent individual record. Usually, databases have more tables, each corresponding to one of the objects that are trying to represent. Masek and Riskin were filed in 1991 and 1987 respectively, so that it is easy to understand that the current database system can contain additional attributes for features stored in an associated feature attribute table. Thus a look-up table could be a categories table for products, storing the category ID and the name or associations of the subscription code to multiple telephone number. For the above reasons, Examiner respectfully maintains Masek and Riskin for supporting The Examiner's office action.

Applicant also argues that Crockett is concerned with using constraint and preference rules using a bias factor to direct calls to call centers and does not address storing the subscription codes in a look up table. Examiner disagrees since Crockett teaches rules in the routing plan. Rules are executed for a set of valid call center destinations until a destination for the call has been selected or until all rules have been executed. The predetermined round robin order such that one of the plurality of subscriber has a greater chance of being contacted by the caller using the subscription code than remaining plurality of subscriber. The predetermined round robin order is

similar to biasing one or more call center destinations over other call center destinations in Crockett. In addition, Crockett is the secondary reference, and it does not have to bodily incorporate in the primary reference. Thus Examiner maintains Crockett for supporting Examiner's office action.

### ***Conclusion***

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen L. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7487. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon and Thurs: 8:30-5:00.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F. Matar can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Karen le  
KLL

September 4, 2007

  
AHMAD F. MATAR  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2700